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In From the Cold

N-EARLY TWO YEARS after his forced resignation as chief of counterintelligence for the CIA, James Angleton is beginning to shed the covert life which had so comfortably suited his occupation.

It isn't easy. "After 31 years of belonging to one organization, it's very difficult to join another," he said last week. "I'm still decompressing."

But Angleton, a cold warrior who considers detente with Russia "a sham," a Soviet tactic to undermine American security, was so infuriated by the investigation of his old employer by the committee headed by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) he began taking caustic pen in hand.

Congress, he writes in a paper for American Cause, a conservative Washington-based political education group, has "ended up by unclothing and all but disarming that agency. . . ." The blame, he says, is also shared by Presi-

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dent Ford for allowing the CIA to be picked apart. The committee's report "is overwhelmingly a political tract for those senators who wish to reduce the American position in the world."

Since leaving the agency, Angleton, 58, has served as a consultant "for certain government elements — not necessarily for the CIA." He still lives in Arlington, where much of his spare time in the past was devoted to his prize orchids. But he has little time for such hobbies now, he says. "I'm more concerned with the damage of the Church Committee to the integrity of the intelligence community."